

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NOTES OF A MEETING OF CHILDREN SERVICES TASK AND FINISH PANEL  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 28 APRIL 2011  
IN CONFERENCE ROOM, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING  
AT 6.30 - 7.45 PM**

**Members Present:** Mrs L Wagland (Chairman), Ms R Brookes and J Knapman (Environment Portfolio Holder)

**Other members present:**

**Apologies for Absence:** Mrs P Brooks, Mrs T Cochrane and Ms J Hedges

**Officers Present** J Chandler (Assistant Director (Community Services and Customer Relations)) and A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer)

**33. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)**

The Panel noted that there were no substitute members.

**34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**35. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The notes from the meeting held on 28 March 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

**36. FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Panel reviewed the draft final report of the Panel and made the following observations and recommendations.

**The Report:**

- That this report once agreed, go to Essex County's Overview and Scrutiny Children's Safety Panel for their information;
- The report should make it clear that EFDC were partly responsible for the withdrawal of the Memorandum of Agreement;
- What the effect of the cuts were on the present budgets;
- Where the money came from, if not from the Government through the Council's budget;
- The paragraph on Child Protection/Safeguarding should be put into plainer English to emphasise that we do not have any confidence in the Children Protection Services;
- The report needed to emphasise how important the Panel considered the provision of awareness road shows such as 'Crucial Crew' and the 'Reality Road Show' due to their positive outcomes;
- The Q&A session from the minutes of the 28 March 2011 meeting to be added as an appendix;
- To put in an accreditation to our services as they are seen as a benchmark for other services;

- To put in a short section to ask that Leisure Services continue to support and build on the excellent work done by the Youth Council on the provision of facilities for young people; and
- In the Executive Summary, need to add what the Panel found out, what was done by the Panel and what current work the Panel supported.

**The Recommendations:**

- That the work that EFDC should continue to support should be listed and not just put into a general statement;
- We would need to prioritise what services we provide and also the officer time given to the getting of grants;
- That the first recommendation be altered to read ‘...Council seeks to provide...’ instead of ‘...continues to provide...’ as there were concern as to where the money was to come from;
- That an option be added to offering our high quality services to others at a cost and maybe bring in a revenue stream for EFDC;
- There was a need to scrutinise figures for ‘looked after children’ in our area, details of children with disabilities and where local children were sent to as there were few local homes;
- Also to ask the ECC ‘Director of Children Commissioning’ to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis;
- A recommendation should be added to indicate the accountability of social services to elected members and encourage them to see ward councillors as a resource and not a problem; and
- That mandatory training should be supplied for all councillors on Child Protection and that every EFDC Councillor should know where to go for advice on Child Protection issues.